2002 LTC Council Workgroup Activities and Structure

1.	**Consumer LTC Information Workgroup** (a) **Recommendation:** Continue to develop basic information on publicly funded LTC services and the Medi-Cal application process when LTC assistance is required. (b) **Recommendation**: Continue to expand the CalCaresNetwork website resources and links. Continue to work in partnership with Innovation grants that are developing Internet consumer LTC resources to minimize duplication of efforts. (c) **Recommendation**: Encourage the development of comprehensive consumer LTC materials responsive to consumer broad needs and questions rather than a multitude of short brochures about individual programs. (d) **Recommendation**: Examine the state's role in implementation of the "211" 3-digit universal telephone number, that will assist people in finding needed services, without struggling through hundreds of telephone listings and multiple phone calls. This new system is currently available in several test areas of the country but will soon be available more broadly. State level implementation issues must be articulated.
2.	**Coordinating Community LTC Services Workgroup** **Recommendation**: When funding is available to support the implementation of the Nursing Home Assessment and Transition Pilot Project, CDA, DHS, and DSS will designate a staff member, at the appropriate classification level, to act as a designated departmental liaison/ombudsman to the project, to address operational issues that will arise in implementing the project.
3.	**Coordination through Automated Data Sharing (CDS) Workgroup** (a) **Recommendation**: Develop one or more model protocols, compliant with the HIPAA confidentiality requirements, that will facilitate the interagency sharing of client information between the IHSS, Adult Protective Services, MSSP, Linkages, and Title III Care Management programs specifically to: • Reduce redundant public agency requests for the same client information; and • Expedite referrals from one program to another and reducing the time period between referral and actual service delivery. (b) **Recommendation**: Examine the feasibility of establishing a client information database shared by these five programs specifically for the purpose of improving client care coordination and identifying opportunities to reduce duplicative program reporting through the use of a shared client information database (aka "data warehouse"). (c) **Recommendation**: Departments that fund local programs to conduct information and referral and/or information and assistance should encourage those local programs to utilize accepted, standardized Information & Referral taxonomies. It is shortsighted to develop agency unique taxonomies at this time when Internet and telephone technologies (e.g. "211") will require the use of a standardized information classification system. (d) **Recommendation**: Internet technology can facilitate many this workgroup's recommendations and several Innovation grantees are developing web base

	prototypes responsive to these recommendations. The Council should work in partnership with the relevant grant projects to respond to Recommendations B and C above.

4.	**Data Development Workgroup**
	
	(a) **Recommendation**: Continue development of LTC Database Inventory with the following objectives:
	
	    1) Create a descriptive overview of each database in the inventory on the web that includes a summary of the main attributes of the databases and appropriate department contacts for more information.
	
	    2) Develop a permanent on-line mechanism to update the information on existing databases and to add new databases, as they become known.
	
	    3) Secure a permanent host site to maintain and update the LTC Data Inventory.
	
	(b) **Recommendation**: Support other workgroups on data issues, including the data recommendations of the Coordinating Community LTC Services Workgroup.
	
	(c) **Recommendation**: Assist efforts underway that address LTC data integration; access to information to better coordinate client care; client information privacy safeguards; and various legislatively required activities that involve LTC data access and analyses.
	
	(d) **Recommendation**: Seek to increase the participation of direct LTC consumers in the Data Development Workgroup.

5.	**SB 639 (Ortiz) Access to Mental Health Care for Persons with Dementia** The LTC Council will convene a taskforce to identify barriers to mental health services for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia and develop recommendations to overcome these barriers. The Council convenes this taskforce aware that (1) a portion of those persons with dementia develop behavioral and/or psychiatric disorders and (2) treatment interventions in many cases can make it possible for these individuals to remain in the community or in the most integrated setting possible.
6.	**AB 499—Medicaid Assisted Living Waiver Development** DHS, with input from the appropriate departments on the Council and other LTC stakeholders, will continue its efforts to develop a Medi-Cal assisted living waiver pilot program as required by AB 499 (Chapter 557 Statutes of 2000).
7.	**Facility and Services Licensure Workgroup** (will be submitted by next Council meeting)